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Dear King County Council:

We, King County Conservation Voters, are writing to express our support for the King County Charter Open Space Amendment and to request the Council place this amendment on the ballot for public vote on this year.

The Open Space Amendment is a reasoned and balanced approach to protect conservation of our forest lands and open spaces. By requiring Council action and a public vote prior to diverting listed protected lands to other uses, the County would appropriately raise the hurdle for development of these precious resources.

Forest lands and open spaces are critical to King County. They clean and store storm water, protecting fish, provide for critical habitat for birds and wildlife and collect and store green house gases that would otherwise contribute to climate change. Near-in forests and open space are part of the great attraction of King County. They bring in talented workers and employers that drive our economy. Our public spaces provide opportunities for healthy living that is easy and affordable to access.

The lands protected by the Open Space Amendment are a vital resource for King County residents and future generations. Our forest lands and open spaces are part of our culture, heritage, and are an essential part of the character of King County.

We would like to thank the King County Charter Commission for their work and dedication in drafting this amendment and thank the King County Council in supporting the work that the commission has done. We look forward to a public vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

Frank Paganelli and Jessecia Brand
Co-Chairs, King County Conservation Voters